

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 10295

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJ: ALLEGED CIA CONNECTION WITH ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S
REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (EPRP)

REF: A) ADDIS ABABA 10204, B) ADDIS ABABA 10251

1. MORNING SEPT 15, PMAC ISSUED YET A THIRD DENUNCIATION OF
EPRP, AND THIS TIME INCLUDED REFERENCE TO CIA THEREBY MAKING
OFFICIAL THE ALLEGATION REPORTED REFEELS OF AN ASSOCIATION
BETWEEN THE CIA AND EPRP. RELEVANT PORTION OF PMAC TEXT
(WHICH HAS BEEN REPEATED OVER RADIO TODAY) IS AS FOLLOWS(ROUGHLY
TRANSLATED FROM THE AMHARIC):

"WHO IS REALLY THE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY FORCE AT
PRESENT? IS IT THE PROGRESSIVE INTELLECTUALS WHO ARE
STRUGGLING FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE BROAD MASSES, OR IS
IT THE EPRP WHICH HAS ENTERED INTO ASSOCIATION WITH REACTIONARIES,
THE FORMER REGIME, AND GOING BEYOND THAT, WITH THE CIA TO PERMIT
ANTI-PEOPLE AND ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY PLOTS?"

2. HMAC REFERENCE TO CIA CHANGES PICTURE RATHER
SHARPLY. UNTIL THIS STATEMENT, EPRP-CIA THEME
COULD BE BRUSHED OFF BY PEMG AS EXPRESSCONS OF OPINION OF
PRIVATE CITIZENS. NOW IT HAS AN OFFICIAL CAST. I THERE-
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FORE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD ALTER NATURE OF DEMARCHE

TO FONMIN SUGGESTED PARA 4 REF B BY TRANSFORMING IT INTO A PROTEST, MAKING FOLLOWING SUGGESTED POINTS ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPT:

A) WE ARE DEEPLY DISTURBED AT ALLEGATIONS THAT EPRP IS ASSOCIATING WITH CIA MADE INPMAC'S STATEMENT OF SEPT 15. WE WISH TO ASSURE THE EPMG THAT THE ALLEGATION IS COMPLETELY UNTRUE. THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT

INVOLVE ITSELF IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER NATION AND HAS REPEATEDLY STATED ITS DESIRE (MOST RECENTLY BY ASST SECY SCHAUFELE) TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA AND TO BE RESPONSIVE TO ETHIOPIAN REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE, WHETHER MILITARY OR ECONOMIC. ANY ALLEGATION THAT THE UNITED STATES OR ANY OF ITS AGENCIES IS ASSOCIATING WITH WHAT RECENT PMAC STATEMENTS DESCRIBE "AS AN AGENT OF SUBVERSION AND COUNTER-REVOLUTION," SUGGESTS TO US A SERIOUS MISUNDERSTANDING OF THAT POLICY. IF THE PEMG HAS ANY EVIDENCE THAT THE CIA IS LINKED WITH THE EPRP, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT IT.

B) WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED THAT THE ALLEGATION WILL CREATE A HOSTILE ATMOSPHERE THAT WILL BE HARMFUL TO THE WELL-BEING OF ALL AMERICANS RESIDENT IN ETHIOPIA.

;) WE THERE FORE ASK IN THE INTERESTS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS THAT THE EPMG REFRAIN FROM ANY FURTHER STATEMENTS COUPLING CIA WITH EPRP AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE EPMG COULD FIND A WAY PUBLICLY TO DISAVOW THE ALLEGATION.

3. AS INDICATED IN REFTTEL B, I CONSIDER IT PREFERABLE TO MAKE A DEMARCHE TO FONMIN KIFLE IF WE CAN BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR NEW YORK. DEPENDING UPON WHAT HE HAS TO SAY WE MIGHT THEN CONSIDER A FOLLOW-UP NOTE, OR POSSIBLY EVEN A LETTER TO THE CHAIRMAN. MEANWHILE DEPT MIGHT CONSIDER CALLING IN ETHIOPIAN CHARGE AND MAKE SAME POINTS TO HIM. I ALSO SUGGEST THAT WE AND DEPT BE PREPARED DENY ALLEGATION PUBLICLY IN ANY TERMS DEPT SUGGESTS.

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